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Students Vote

MWC Affirms Ties With NSA

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Mary Washington College students have voted 595 to 406 to continue the school's membership in the National Student Association.

About half of the 2,100-member student body voted last night in a referendum on whether to continue affiliation with the national student group.

Last night's voting was preceded by a debate between Teddy O'Toole, national educational affairs vice president of NSA, and Arnold Steinberg, editor of the New Guard Magazine, the mouthpiece of the Young Americans For Freedom, a group which has opposed NSA.

Listing reasons that Mary Washington College should split with NSA, Steinberg charged that NSA does not represent student opinion and that its officers have lied to protect the organization's tax exempt status.

Steinberg said that only 15 per cent of the colleges and universities eligible to join the organization are members of NSA. Only seven per cent, he said, attend the annual Congress which takes stands on issues ranging from black power to Vietnam.

"Why do they have to take all these political positions," he asked. "Why do they have to take such left wing positions?"

"NSA lobbying violates its own constitution and internal revenue statute," Steinberg said. He called NSA officers "official liars" who have lied "to maintain their tax exempt status, to keep their draft exempt status, and about their CIA affiliation."

NSA officials acknowledged last year that the organization had been subsidized by the Central Intelligence Agency for several years. Steinberg asked Mary Washington "to disaf-

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affiliate and by so doing to incite other schools to do the same."

Speaking for NSA, O'Toole said the organization has three things to offer MWC, services such as life insurance and information on travel and education; the services of NSA advisors; and leadership exposure, "the generation of ideas."

"The people involved are young leaders who are committed to a feeling that young people have got to take an interest," in what is happening around them, he said.

"Education is bankrupt," O'Toole said. When students come to the NSA congress they talk about the draft and Vietnam, and "what in the whole world today is more important than these things?" he asked.

"NSA provides a forum to talk about these things."

At the congress, O'Toole explained, students "clash with other philosophies," and talk about what's important.

"When they go back, it's with a philosophy or idea that's changed, that's different."

In answer to a question, O'Toole said that no policy passed by the student congress is binding on the member campuses, "however, there is a thing called the mass media which

are forever trying to find out what students think. They turn to NSA."

O'Toole agreed that the policies voted at the congress are "left of center," but said "the people who draft them and pass them are students like me and you. . . They vote on these in a democratic process."

"If NSA is undemocratic . . . it is because of a failure of the democratic system."

About NSA's affiliation with the CIA, O'Toole said, "I was used overseas by the CIA, and I didn't like it. It (CIA subsidies) was cut off in '66, really. NSA has a new freedom now."

Last night's referendum at Mary Washington was the result of a petition signed by 10 per cent of the student body last spring, asking that the question of NSA affiliation be brought to a vote.

NSA had been put on a year's probation at Mary Washington in 1965, but no decision had ever been made on whether or not to continue membership.

Five other Virginia colleges, Virginia Union University, Bridgewater College, Virginia State College, Hampton Institute, and Norfolk State College, are NSA members. Longwood College and Sweet Briar College have disaffiliated with NSA.